

Lake County News Sun, August 23, 2007

The Des Plaines River is going get a helping hand from the U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers when they destroy the four spillway dams along the river allowing predator fish like northern and walleye to make it up stream into Lake County.

It will also allow easier canoeing for the river enthusiasts who had to portage around the structures when the water was low.

U.S. Rep Mark Kirk, R-Highland Park, made the announcement this spring and we are awaiting word for when the project is going to start. It should not be too difficult to remove, maybe they can borrow the floatable back-hoes the Fox Waterway Agency has on the Chain O'Lakes and Fox River.

Another added benefit could be the wetlands along the river. Donald Hey, director of Wetlands Research Inc., which has rebuilt wetlands along Route 41 recently purchased the old Paintball Blitz property on Route 41, which used to be an old golf course. During an interview for that story he mentioned that the carp are really bad, tearing up the newly planted wetlands to the point that Hey started using a netting to try and discourage them.

More fish eating fish and maybe a special bow/spear hunting season allowed by the forest preserve could knock the problem down and then maybe the predator fish could keep it in control.

Just an idea.